

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 11229 161003Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----121705 161201Z /47
R 160841Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6736
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11229

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV PROP CH US
SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON FEI I-MIN

REF HONG KONG 7638

1. TOWARD THE END OF MY FAREWELL CALL SEPTEMBER 15 ON TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN, FEI RAISED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD PASSED ON TO THE PRC LEADERSHIP THE REMARKS (ESPECIALLY TNOSE ON GLOBAL CONSIDERATIIONS PARA ONE REFTEL) I HAD MADE TO HIM JULY 1 ABOUT CHINA POLICY AND THE PREPARATIONS THEN UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON FOR THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PEKING. FROM THE CONTEXT, FEI LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE HAD DONE THIS DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING IN LATE JULY/EARLY AUGUST FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE PLA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY. THE ACTUAL TALKS HAD SHOWN MY PROJECTION TO BE ACCURATE, FEI COMMENTED; HE CITED THE SECRETARY'S TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH HUANG HUA ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. FEI COMPLETELY AVOIDED ANY ECHO OF TERG HSIAO-PING'S PUBLIC COMMENTS FOLLOWING THE VISIT. HE HAD NOTED EARLIER, WELL BEFORE INTRODUCING BILATERAL RELATIONS, THAT TENG "IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD."

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2. FEI TOOK UP THE TAIWAN ISSUE, BUT MUCH MORE BRIEFLY THAN IN OUR JULY 1 MEETING. ANY PRC ATTACK ON TAIWAN, HE SAID, WOULD TAKE PLACE ONLY AFTER LENGTHY PREPARATION, AND, HE HINTED, ONLY IF IT WERE NECESSITATED BY THE FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FEI NOTED THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN HONG KONG

WORK ON TAIWAN MATTERS; THIS MISSION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THEM BY CHOU EN-LAI HIMSELF. FEI NEXT CITED SOME OF THE STATISTICS OF THE NEW SHIPBUILDING FACILITY AT KAOHSIUNG, NOTING THAT IT HAS A CONTRACT TO BUILD TWO 450,000 TON TANKERS FOR THE US, USING JAPANESE BLUEPRINTS. HIS OSTENSIBLE REASON WAS TO ILLUSTRATE HOW CLOSELY HE FOLLOWS TAIWAN DEVELOPMENTS. AMONG OTHER REASONS, IT IS FAINTLY POSSIBLE FEI MAY HAVE BEEN HINTING THAT PEKING FULLY APPRECIATES THE VALUE OF THE INDUSTRIAL PLANT EXISTING ON TAIWAN AND WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE IT DESTROYED BY WARFARE. CROSS

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